



Most permit fees established by Title 27 of the King County Code are subject to a 5% surcharge. Per Ordinance 16959, the surcharge became effective January 1, 2011, and will be discontinued effective December 31, 2014.

Three Special Purposes

The fee surcharge was established to fund the following activities that are necessary to serve applicants for building and land use permit in King County:

- The King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review (DPER) is amid a multi-year implementation of a new permitting software application that will be integrated with other departments in the County and will allow for enhanced services, such as the ability for some customers to apply for their permits on-line and pay on-line with a credit card.
- In an effort to reduce operating costs and improve accessible to the DPER's customer base, DPER has relocated its offices closer to the rural unincorporated area, which principally includes County territory east of the urban areas and on Vashon Island.
- As development activities slowed in recent years, DPER found it necessary to downsize its staff and draw down the working capital used for day-to-day operations.

DPER is a self-supporting department that receives about fifteen percent of its total budget from the General Fund. So, to meet the special business needs mentioned above DPER had at least two options: 1) roll these permitting costs into our regular fees as overhead; or 2) be transparent about it. DPER opted to be transparent and proposed a temporary surcharge in the 2011 budget. The surcharge expires in four years and must be used for the three specific purposes above.